App. No. 10/019097
Office Action Dated December 20, 2004
Amd. Dated April 20, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the

application.

Claims 1, 6-9, 13 and 15 are amended.

Claims 17 and 18 are new.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A control device for controlling at least one automatic <u>dispensing</u> machine <u>for dispensing food and drinks and for adjusting parameters during preparation of said food and drinks,</u> comprising<u>:</u>

(a)   <u>an</u> identification means whereby a person who is authorized to use or to program the

automatic <u>dispensing</u> machine can be identified, the identification means comprising a

vocal control system which ~~identified~~ <u>identifies</u> an <u>authorized</u> individual ~~authorized~~

~~person~~ on the basis of previously stored speech patterns and/or voice patterns;

(b)   a security device that is controlled by the identification means in such a way as to permit

or to block access to the vocal control system, depending on whether identification has

been ~~succeeded~~ <u>successful</u> [[and]]; <u>and</u>

(c)   <u>a</u> speech-pattern-analyzing means that recognizes specific speech-pattern inputs by

reference to a speech-pattern library and that associates recognized speech-pattern inputs

with particular parameters to be controlled, channels them and converts them to control

signals such that a specified hardware/software receiving section of the automatic

<u>dispensing</u> machine ~~concerned received~~ <u>receives</u> the control signal from the vocal input.

2.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to Claim 1, wherein the identification

means is designed to analyze the speech signals that are input with respect to a key word.

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3.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 1, wherein the identification means is designed to analyze the individual speech signals with respect to both a key word and a voice pattern.

4.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 1 wherein an identification data bank is provided, which stores several voice patterns and/or key words so as to identify several authorized persons.

5.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 1, wherein the security device can be activated and inactivated.

6.   (Currently Amended) Control device according to claim 1 further comprising an indicator that signals both a correctly identified vocal input and also an erroneous, unidentified vocal input.

7.   (Currently Amended) Control device according to claim 1, in combination with several automatic dispensing machines of the same kind or different kinds, which are connected to one another by a network and can each [[by]] be identified and controlled by its own identification number.

8.   (Currently Amended) Control device according to Claim 7, wherein every automatic dispensing machine is assigned its own key word, so that even such machine can be identified and selected for a control process by means of a specific key word.

9.   (Currently Amended) Control device according to claim 1 further comprising a data-collection system which collects the vocal data that have been input and evaluated and which is connected to a cashier system so that the identified and evaluated vocal data can be employed to generate a printed bill.

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10.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 1, wherein the identification apparatus is designed so that it can classify vocal inputs of different authorized persons according to priorities.

11.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 10, wherein the classification is carried out with reference to a voice analysis and/or with reference to various key words.

12.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 1, wherein at least the identification apparatus and the speech recognition device are implemented as a software program that can run on a personal computer.

13.   (Currently Amended) Control device according to Claim 1, further comprising a switch that can occupy at least two positions, such that placing the switch in a first position enables a speech pattern to be recorded, and in a second position of the switch a speech pattern can be identified.

14.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to Claim 13, wherein the switch is implemented by software and can be controlled by the speech-pattern recognition device in such a way that after a user or an authorized person has been successfully identified, the switch is automatically turned to "RECORD".

15.   (Currently Amended) Control device according to Claim 13, further comprising a clearing device, in particular in the form of a key switch or infrared switch, which can turn the switch to "RECORD".

16.   (Previously Presented) Control device according to claim 1, in combination with a wireless microphone or a wireless ordering system that is in radio communication with the control device.

17.   (New) A control device for controlling at least one automatic machine comprising:

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(a)   an identification means whereby a person who is authorized to use or to program the
        automatic machine can be identified, the identification means comprising a vocal control
        system which identifies an authorized individual on the basis of previously stored speech
        patterns and/or voice patterns;

(b)   a security device that is controlled by the identification means in such a way as to permit
        or to block access to the vocal control system, depending on whether identification has
        been successful;

(c)   a speech-pattern-analyzing means that recognizes specific speech-pattern inputs by
        reference to a speech-pattern library and that associates recognized speech-pattern inputs
        with particular parameters to be controlled, channels them and converts them to control
        signals such that a specified hardware/software receiving section of the automatic
        machine receives the control signal from the vocal input; and

(d)   a data-collection system which collects the vocal data that have been input and evaluated
        and which is connected to a cashier system so that the identified and evaluated vocal data
        . can be employed to generate a printed bill.

18.   (New) A control device for controlling at least one automatic dispensing comprising:

(a)   an identification means whereby a person who is authorized to use or to program the
        automatic dispensing machine can be identified, the identification means comprising a
        vocal control system which identifies an authorized individual on the basis of previously
        stored speech patterns and/or voice patterns;

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(b)   a security device that is controlled by the identification means in such a way as to permit
        or to block access to the vocal control system, depending on whether identification has
        been successful; and

(c)   a speech-pattern-analyzing means that recognizes specific speech-pattern inputs by
        reference to a speech-pattern library and that associates recognized speech-pattern inputs
        with particular parameters to be controlled, channels them and converts them to control
        signals such that a specified hardware/software receiving section of the automatic
        dispensing machine receives the control signal from the vocal input;

        wherein the automatic dispensing machine dispenses food and drinks and adjusts
parameters during preparation of said food and drinks.

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